

outstanding

Mixing It Up

When Brian Johnson started Salon Q with co-founder Chris Coleman in 2004, he had a vision for Portland's queer community. "Grab a drink, get connected and get into a conversation," he says. "We were trying to come up with a solution to bringing the gay community together other than on the weekend and not in a bar situation."

Johnson says Salon Q offers a fun social, non-smoking, midweek climate for queer folk to gather. "We have also provided a venue for queer organizations, such as Q Center and [the Human Rights Campaign] as well as some local politicians, to come network with the crowd."

Johnson, who grew up in Silverton, was wooed back to Portland from California in 1991 by *The Oregonian*. He works as the newspaper's manager of real estate advertising. He and Brian Wilson, who has replaced Coleman, bring the community together once a month at Salon Q as a labor of love.

Speaking passionately about his support of Cascade AIDS Project, Q Center, HRC and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Johnson says, "We need to support these organizations so laws can change so we can gain equality." From his experience of living in Los Angeles, he spoke about how important it is for a city to have a queer center. "I grew up in rural Oregon, and there was absolutely nothing like that for me." He also says our queer organizations help us present ourselves in the larger community as the successful community partners that we are.



Brian Johnson keeps the community together and talking.

"I hope Salon Q will continue to serve the community as a vehicle for communication, to bring new people into the community, to allow organizations to spread their message, to serve as a launch pad for new startup ideas, to support gay-owned businesses and to inspire new relationships, whatever they may be," he laughs.

Johnson intends to keep the event open and friendly and says he'd love to see the men's and women's communities "come together in a venue like this."

If you would like to host Salon Q or be put on the mailing list, contact Johnson at bjadman@aol.com or Wilson at brian@kalbererco.com.

—Malka Geffen

just asking

Just Out asked members of the Portland Area Business Association, "What do you expect from your Democratic leaders now?"



SIMONE NEAL
General Contractor

"Being trans, I really hope for more acceptance. We're flying on the coattails of the gay and lesbian movement, and yet we might be the bridge that the marriage issue gets worked out on."



JJ LEE KWAI
Equity Activist and Loan Officer

"Integrity, optimism and delivery on their promises."



ERIK HENDRICKSON
Funeral Services

"I want to see something new. I'm tired of Democrats not being able to come up with a vision. I'm ready for something revolutionary."



MAT ISHAM
President of Northwest Money Team

"Take charge. Use the advantage. Revitalize impeachment efforts."

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